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JASPER V. CRAWFORD, Editor
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The Oregon Pioneer.

MUCH verbal contumely has appeared in the public prints of late anent the statue of the Oregon Pioneer chosen for placement atop Oregon's new capitol. Criticism has been rife. In some cases it has been vitriolic. And while we have little to offer on the subject, being slightly schooled in such things, we do believe the statue, whatever the mould, to be a thing which should long endure and become endeared to the hearts of all. It is something in which all Oregonians have a common interest, and it should evoke a common pride.

Hence, lest ridicule form unfounded inhibition in the public mind, which might long prevent true appreciation of a real work of art, we are reprinting a masterly editorial from the pen of Charles A. Sprague, editor of the Oregon Statesman, Salem, which we believe to be the most logical analysis of the subject brought to our attention. We are indebted to George R. Lewis, a member of the State Capitol Reconstruction commission, for bringing it to us. Here it is, entitled "Pioneer Statue":

The criticisms which have been heard over the design for the statue of the pioneer to stand on top of the new state capitol should occasion no surprise. In fact the lack of criticism should be the worse shock. For not only do tastes differ, but ideas differ; and a public memorial is regarded as fit subject for public expressions of opinion. We recall the furore in Iowa over the murals of the ox-train, painted in the state capitol by Edwin H. Blashfield, one of the distinguished painters of America. The complaint was that Blashfield had put the driver on the wrong side of the ox-team! More recently the murals in the Missouri state capitol by Thomas Hart Benton, descendant of the great senator of that name, have stirred up the Missourians who do not like "to be shown" such realistic scenes as Boss Pendergast sitting in a meeting, and the Kansas City stockyards. Inasmuch as there was some local feeling for the hiring of local artists for the capitol decoration it is only natural to expect that the art work will be subjected to very critical scrutiny.

There are objections to the figure designed by Ulric Ellerhusen for Oregon's capitol; the pioneer lacks a beard; the axe he carries is not hefty enough; the robe or blanket draped over his left shoulder is hardly in character. The critics would prefer a heavy-bearded oldster, somewhat uncouth in personal appearance, with a heavy axe in hand. It is noted, however, that these criticisms have brought their own rejoinders from men whose testimony is competent, the men yet living who are sons of the pioneers. These protest the idea that the pioneer was coarse and un-

couth and always unshaven; and one says that the double-bitted axe is a comparatively recent innovation.

In venturing on a discussion of this subject The Statesman would confess at the beginning an ignorance which is broad and deep of art; and disclaim any pose as authority on Oregon history. But it is our opinion that Mr. Ellerhusen will be fully able to defend his design, as to its historical accuracy, where it is essential to his theme. He did not rush to grab moist clay when he received his commission for this job. In fact he has done considerable work in this very field.

He did a high relief frieze, "Frontier Farewell" for the monument to the pioneers at Harrodsburg, Kentucky, for which he won an award. In the city hall at Kansas City he executed two sculptured friezes: "Lewis and Clark" and "The Road to Oregon." We need to remember that the Oregon trail had two ends,—one of them in the middle west, at about Kansas City; and the tradition of the dress and accoutrements of the period are preserved in the mid-west and east as well as out here. The "Road to Oregon" panel has several characters; men, bearded and smooth-faced, a woman and child. The details prove that the sculptor has made rather an intimate study of his problem in the interest of historical fidelity. The critics may well move with caution before they challenge the design Mr. Ellerhusen proposes for the Oregon capitol.

It is a mistake to assume that the pioneer was always a man with a full beard. Styles change in hirsute adornment as well as dress. The razor is not a recent invention; and barbering was one of the earliest professions. Our early presidents were smooth-shaven. The full beard dates rather from the civil war period, in its full bloom, tapering off to the mustache (remember the waxed handlebars?) of the '80's and '90's. Then the swing was to the beardless style, and lately to a sprig of parsley gracing the upper lip.

Look at the pictures of those who came early to Oregon. Capt. Robert Grey was smooth-faced. Lewis and Clark had sideburns, as did Hall Kelly. Dr. John McLoughlin, beardless, was distinguished by his flowing white hair. Capt. Bonneville and Nathaniel Wyeth were smooth-shaven; also John Ball the first schoolmaster. Jason Lee had a full beard, as did Joe Meek of the "mountain men;" but Sam K. Barlow had sideburns only. Gov. Abernethy and J. Quinn Thornton affected a sort of mutton chop style; and Senator Nesmith didn't let his beard cover his chin or upper lip. One picture of General and Senator Jo Lane shows a light growth of whiskers under his chin; another shows no beard at all. In fact studying the picture of Lane one might easily imagine that in his younger days he could have been a model for the Ellerhusen figure. Look at the picture of Thomas Cox in the chamber of commerce rooms. He was Salem's first merchant, coming in 1847. He is smooth-faced. Among early governors Gaines and Davis wore no beards; Curry did. So there is plenty of precedent for a shorn pioneer.

The fundamental error of the critics is that they are looking for an effigy; what the artist is creating is a symbol. An effigy, a portrait statue, might easily be grotesque on this capitol. It would give it a "dated" effect; and a dating quite out of harmony with the original and somewhat modernistic design of the structure. Moreover the pioneer the critics appear to favor is a conventional type,—like the figure on the carton of flapjack flour, more typical of the California miner than the Oregon settler.

With fine intelligence the sculptor has chosen to execute a figure of the pioneer as symbol, a figure to live through the centuries with the building of which it is a part, rather than to set up a bronze calipered to accuracy as a conventionalized portrait. He has chosen a youthful figure, which suggests youthful vitality of a growing state.

The statue is one of the most important elements of the whole capitol design. The building is designed without a conventional dome. A turret or cylinder surmounts the mass; and it in turn is capped by a bronze statue on a cylindrical base.

The darker bronze figure then is the accent to the white mass of the building. If it is not well done, the whole design suffers. Well executed, it gives the final spiritual elevation which the vertical lines of the building initiate.

Another thing which must be realized is that the pictures so far shown were taken "on the level." The statue itself will stand high in the air, on top of a building. It must be visualized as the observer will see it up over a hundred feet. That is why the final appraisal of the work cannot be made until the statue is in place.

The murals will probably be much different. They will be near. They will be spacious, allowing for much detail. But here again it must be remembered that art is not photography: an effort at exact reproduction. Art is that expression of beauty which conveys truth not in mathematical language, but in the symbolism which becomes the enduring inspiration of the people. That should be remembered in forming judgments on the capitol work.

Drama on the World Front.

ENGLAND throned a new king yesterday. And even as George VI was spotlighted in the billion-dollar show scintillated by Kohinoors and Stars of Africa, a much lesser emerald gem in Monts, France, overcast the ceremonies with a greenish haze. It was the ring that David Windsor, the king that might have been, just the day before slipped on to the proper finger of Wallis Warfield.

Thus did the love theme take a heavy role in one of the most dramatic presentations on the stage of world history.

The incident at Monts, so unportentously staged by the elder brother of the two principals, relieved the strain for the minds of a tense public audience. Concentration of German, Portugese and French troops on Spanish borders was foreboding. And there was little of simplicity in the London act. But who could not readily comprehend David Windsor's act—smile and relax?

Sometimes we get to thinkin' this old world's a whole lot like the girl who contracted poison oak and impetigo at the same time. What helped one hurt the other.

Looks like we're about ready to start the annual early summer sport of juggling the heating stove back and forth between the wood shed and the living room.

Other joys of the season just now are the croaking frogs, the youngsters picking wild flowers . . . Dern! those pesky gnats swarming about the reading-lamp!

Percival Practicality opines there's nothing like arnica to overcome the ailments from back-bending in the flower garden.

And a coupla' crow hunters better watch out for an irate farmer since turning in those turkey hoofs for buzzard souvenirs.

Judging by the number of squeezers received by ladies at the swimming tank benefit, someone must have meant to infer that Heppner's men are all lemons.

A bunch of Morrow county farmers went to Waterville this week to study soil conserving practices. Their good wives are probably hoping they don't get home with a bunch of Washington's tin money.

And we hope none of them buys the Grand Coulee dam.

Again, speaking of water, are you going up to the Willow-Ditch creek ditch tomorrow?

CALL FOR WARRANTS.

Outstanding warrants of School District 42, Morrow County, Oregon, numbered 350 to 353 inclusive, will be paid on presentation to First National Bank of Portland, Heppner Branch, or to the district clerk. Interest on said warrants ceases May 14, 1937.

MRS. SOPHRONA THOMPSON,
Clerk, Heppner, Oregon.

TOWNSEND MEET SET.

A meeting of the Townsend club will be held at the home of Mrs. Minnie Furlong at 7:30 Wednesday evening, May 19. After the regular business meeting, a social hour will follow. Drawing for the quilt donated by Mrs. Martha Wright will be held at this time. Townsend members and friends are invited.

EXAMINER HERE 15TH.

C. M. Bentley, examiner of operators and chauffeurs from the office of Earl Snell, secretary of state, will be at the courthouse in Heppner between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m., Saturday, May 15. All those wishing permits or licenses to drive cars should get in touch with Mr. Bentley at this time.

STAR MEETS TOMORROW.

Regular meeting of Ruth chapter 32, Order of Eastern Star, will be held at Masonic hall tomorrow evening. Special work is announced by Mrs. Virginia Turner, worthy matron.

CARD OF THANKS.

We extend our sincere thanks to the kind neighbors and friends for their help and expressions of sympathy at the time of our bereavement.

The Cochran family,
Delbert and James.

SELL OR TRADE.

300 acres growing grain, about 700 acres good pasture with lease for '37; also good combine; in Eight Mile district. Will take horses or other livestock. Write or telephone E. P. Dodd, Hermiston, Ore. 10-11p

CARS KILLING 271 PER DAY.

In the United States in 1936—and Oregon's quota holds to the national record—271 persons were killed every day, 11 every hour, one every five minutes, the Oregon State Motor association notes.

Will M. Peterson and son, Charles A. Peterson, were business visitors in the city this morning from Pendleton. They are attorneys in the Umatilla city. Mr. Peterson, Sr., said work would start tomorrow on the Echo-Pendleton sector of the Oregon Trail highway which is being relocated and straightened.

Mrs. Eller Brock, niece and granddaughter, and Mrs. James Cooley were Sunday visitors in Heppner, Mrs. Block being a guest at the home of her sister, Mrs. Josie Jones, and Mrs. Cooley visiting her sister, Mrs. Cora Crawford.

Martin Bauernfeind, Morgan storekeeper, was a business visitor in the city yesterday, accompanied by his young son. Wheat in his section appears backward for the season.

Kenneth Akers, assistant at the W. O. Dix store for some time, has taken a position with the new Braden-Bell store.

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon T. Smith and baby son were business visitors in the city yesterday from the farm west of Ione.

Miss Nellie Doney was a visitor in the city yesterday from Hynd Brothers' Rose Lawn ranch, Sand Hollow.

Crop Increase in Sight Despite Late Season

No marked change in consumer demand for farm products is expected in the near future, although there have been indications of some slackening in the rate of increase, says a review of the agricultural situation just released by the OSC agricultural extension service. With some exceptions, however, the present prospect appears to indicate an increase in crop production in the country as a whole, despite a backward spring season.

The cold, wet weather in March, followed by heavy rainfall in April, delayed land preparation and spring seeding operations. Farmers found it necessary to feed more hay and grain than expected, owing to poor early pasture growth. Farm supplies of feed grains have consequently been reduced to a point similar to two years ago, following the drouth of 1934, but soil moisture conditions have been materially improved for later growth of crops and pastures.

With respect to farm prices and costs, the report indicates the current Oregon farm price level at a point slightly lower than the mid-March index figure of 82 per cent of the 1926-30 average. This represents a tremendous gain compared with March, 1936, when the Oregon index stood at 70. For the first time in many years, farm prices in Oregon average out approximately up to "parity" in exchange value for the commodities usually bought by farmers, despite an upward trend in farm costs of around seven or eight per cent during the past year.

Commercial hatchery records continue to reflect a considerable decrease in the demand for turkey poult, compared with a year ago, according to the report. This situation suggests that the market outlook for Oregon turkeys of the 1937 crop is more favorable than a year ago.

Test Shows Inoculation Value

Oregon City—Although no farmer ever thinks seriously any more of planting alfalfa without first inoculating the seed, Frank Coffield of Currinsville last year left just a small strip through his field on which the seed was not inoculated. The seed came up, he reported to County Agent Inskip, but the plants soon disappeared and the strip is barren and must be planted over, while the inoculated plants on each side form a vigorous stand which will be ready to cut in June.

For Sale—1 3-4-Black Percheron mare, 6 yrs. old, wt. 1450, broke; also 1 4-yr. old mare with colt, suitable for saddle, gentle, wt. 1050. Frank H. Lindsey, Morgan, Ore. 8tf.

Cooked Food Sale, Humphreys Drug store, Saturday, beginning at 10:30 a. m., by ladies of the Christian church.

Dr. J. P. Stewart, Eye-Sight Specialist of Pendleton, will be at Hotel Heppner on Wednesday, May 19.

For Sale—7 weeks-old pigs, dandies. Also wood and posts. Cloy Dykstra. 10p.

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